

## THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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Write all communications, designed for publication, on one side of the paper.

Rejected communications will be numbered and filed, and the author will be notified. It not applied for in 30 days they will be destroyed. To secure their return postage must be sent with the application. Answers to enquiries will be made through our "Correspondents Column" when it can be done with propriety. We want intelligent correspondents in every county in the State. We want facts of value, results accomplished of value, experiences of value, plainly and briefly told. One solid, demonstrated fact is worth a thousand theories.

Address all communications to  
THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER,  
Winston, N. C.

Winston, N. C., Dec. 1, 1886.

[This paper entered as second class matter at the Post Office in Winston, N. C.]

## THE CROSS MARK.

The cross mark on your paper indicates that the time for which you subscribed has or is about to expire. It is to give notice so your subscription may be renewed. If the subscription be not renewed the name will be dropped from the list, but we want every one to renew and bring a friend along too.

See our offer to give THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER one year and the Patch Corn Shelter for four dollars. This is the best shelter for the money in America. It is guaranteed and will give entire satisfaction. Send in your orders at once.

Read our advertisements. And you will do us a great favor when you speak or write of them, to mention THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

In a dog show in Philadelphia there is one dog nine feet long and five feet high, which will do pretty well for a dog.

Judge Scott, of Illinois, has granted a stay of proceedings in the case of the condemned Chicago anarchists, until the Supreme court can review the case.

According to the latest assessments the real estate and personal property in North Carolina is valued at \$220,000,000, an increase of 6,000,000 over last year.

Col. A. B. Andrews has been re-elected President of the Western N. C. Railroad, a position which he has held for several years with such signal ability.

Messrs. Louis Bagger & Co., solicitors of patents, Washington, D. C., write us that for the week ending Nov. 23, forty patents were issued to citizens of the Southern States.

We have a letter from one of the most prominent, intelligent and progressive farmers of Mecklenburg county, strongly endorsing the movement for a Farmers' Convention.

Reports from Ohio, Illinois, Indiana and Missouri, show the acreage of wheat planted this fall to be a slight increase over last year, and the outlook for the growing crop favorable.

There is but one ex-President now living, but the widows of four presidents still survive. Mrs. Polk, Mrs. Tyler, Mrs. Grant and Mrs. Garfield. All of these receive an annuity of \$5,000.

Charles Francis Adams, grand-son of John Adams, second President of the United States, and son of John Quincy Adams, sixth President, died at his home in Boston last Sunday, aged 80 years.

Numerous inventors have been at work for years on car couplers. Up to this time about seven thousand patents have been granted, and every week a half dozen or more are added to the number.

According to the report of Postmaster-General Vilas there has been an increase of 2,363 post offices over last year, 1,444 of which were in the Southern States and Indian Territory. There were 22,717 postmasters appointed. It cost \$29,955,898 to transport the mails. The total expenditures of the Post Office Department were a little less than \$51,000,000.

Gov. Gordon, of Georgia, appointed the 24th of November as Arbor Day in that State. The Governors of other Southern States would do well to follow his example. There should be an arbor day in every State, as there already is in several.

There is a mysterious cattle disease prevalent in the Blue River country in Nebraska, from which many have died. About two months ago a rabid dog entered two pastures and bit a number of cattle. Within forty days thirteen died and others have died since.

A foundry in Rome, Ga., has just turned out a water wheel, 56 inches in diameter, 115 horse power, one of the largest ever made in the South, for a mill in Rowan county. It looks somewhat odd to see North Carolina mills sending to Georgia for wheels. There are some very good wheels manufactured in this State. Those manufactured by the Sergeant Manufacturing Company, at Greensboro, have an excellent reputation.

The veterans of the 6th N. C. Regiment will have a re-union at Durham, on Friday, the 3rd inst. THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER acknowledges the honor of an invitation to be present and participate in the pleasures of the occasion. We are pleased to note the intention of those of the old 26th Regiment, who are accessible to Siler, to have a re-union at that place at an early day. This is right. The old survivors should meet at least once a year, and talk over the times and scenes that tried their manhood, their devotion and their courage.

A farmer's convention, composed of farmers from all the counties of the State, would be a long step in the right direction. Among other important matters that would be accomplished would be a plan, doubtless, by which the farmers of every county in the State would be thoroughly organized and thus make an annual meeting of our farmers an assured fact. What could not the farmers of North Carolina accomplish if they would meet together once a year to consult and act in unison for their common good? Shall we have a convention? Answer.

The farmers need an organization not to advocate or promote political or partizan questions, but that will boldly use its influence upon the Legislature State and National, to protect their interests. In such an organization it is their right and their duty to consider and discuss questions of public policy.

It may be that in the near future, they will need an organization in order that their voice may be heard and felt in defence of civil liberty and in perpetuating the blessings of religious freedom. In the conflict of antagonistic interests which may involve all that is dear to us nothing would be so potent in adjusting the differences as the conservative voice of the farmers of the land.

If legislation is oppressive and the government goes wrong who is to blame? We have 4,000,000 farmers in this country. 280,000,000 acres of improved lands valued at \$10,000,000,000. Should not this great interest be protected and watched over?

Shall we have a Farmer's Convention? When? Where? How shall those counties that have no granges or no clubs be represented? Let intelligent, thinking farmers all over the State write us and give us their views.

## A BOY'S LETTER.

We publish elsewhere a letter and a right sensible letter, from a farmer boy of Burke county. We publish letters with pleasure from boys and girls because we like to hear what they have to say and we like to encourage them to think and write. We would like to hear from a dozen or more every week, on any subject they choose to write about and we hope that our young friends will avail themselves of the invitation and write to us often.

## OUR STATE EXCHANGES.

We are requested by the Forsyth County Farmers' Club to ask the State Press to copy the resolutions adopted in its meeting on Saturday last, suggesting a mass meeting of the farmers of the State, to be held in the month of January next. They will be found in its proceedings, published on the first page of this paper.

A farmer living near town has sowed ninety-six bushels of wheat, set out seven bushels of onion sets, and has ordered three bushels more. —Davie Times.

## BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION.

This body assembled in the city of Wilmington last week. It was the largest convention of Baptists ever assembled in the State. Its deliberations were characterized by unity of purpose, and harmony of action. Differences in opinion existed and very naturally, but as a rule they were subordinated to the one grand purpose of advancing and promoting the cause of the Master. There are about 130,000 white Baptists in the State of which 97,000 were represented by this body. The denomination has doubled its numbers in our State within the past twenty years.

The speeches, the reports, the resolutions were all inspired with a spirit of progress. Grand and glorious as is the work accomplished in all its departments of labor, during the past year, in Missions, in Ministerial education, in strengthening Wake Forest college and enlarging and sustaining the Orphanage, still forward was evidently the watchword of everyone present—minister and layman.

The peculiar policy of the Baptists recognizing and granting in their convention to each church an inherent sovereignty, exercising none of the prerogatives of a judicial body, and assuming no control over the churches which it represents, but actuated and bound together by principles which are inherent in the various objects which it seeks to promote, this convention of big brained and big hearted men, acting in harmonious accord, was pleasing to look upon.

It will hold its next session in Durham in November of next year.

## A FARMERS' CONVENTION.

We publish in this issue a letter from Col. Wm. H. S. Burgwyn, of Vance county, suggesting the holding of a farmers' convention sometime during the sitting of the next legislature. Col. Burgwyn is not only one of the foremost business men in Vance county, but one of the largest farmers in the State, and one who not only takes an interest in it but is proud of the calling, deeming it, to quote his own words, "except that of the ministry, the noblest, most elevating, and happiest a man can pursue."

In concise language, he gives his reasons why such convention should be held, and suggests certain topics for consideration, in all of which every farmer in the State is interested whether he cultivate few or many acres. As THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER has been in favor all the time and has urged the organization of a State Convention to meet annually for the discussion of such questions as our respected correspondent suggests and kindred topics, we heartily concur in and fully endorse his suggestion, and trust that it may meet with such a response from the farmers of North Carolina as will result not only in one of the largest gatherings of representative farmers ever held in the State, but in a permanent organization as well to look after the interest of and talk for the farmers of North Carolina.

The Farmers' Club of Forsyth county, as will be seen in the published proceedings elsewhere, have promptly responded and have unanimously resolved in favor of a Mass Convention to be held in Greensboro on the 8th of January. This action evinced the sentiments of the clubs of this county, which are composed of the most thorough-going and progressive farmers in the country. The move has been made and now let the farmers of the State follow it up. If pursued earnestly and with determination it means much for them.

It means that agriculture, the industry greater than all the others combined in North Carolina, shall have a representative organization to speak for it and to act for it.

It means the devising of methods by which the voice of the farmers can and will be heard when they desire it to be heard.

It means that methods will be devised for bringing the measures in which the farmers of North Carolina are interested before the legislative bodies in such a way as to command respect and attention.

It means the wielding of an influence by concert of action that the farmers of North Carolina have never wielded before.

It means that the farmers of North Carolina shall have a voice in the matters that concern them and

that they intend to make that voice heard.

It means that the great industry of the soil, the foundation upon which all other industries rest, succeed or fail, shall have a measure of that attention from legislative bodies which its importance demands.

It means, in brief, that the farmers of North Carolina in coming thus together mean business.

They will not meet to dabble in politics in any way. They will consider questions relating to the farm, methods of farming, crops, economy and other subjects in which, as farmers, they are interested, but there are great questions of public policy in which they have a vital interest, in which heretofore they have had little to say, which they may discuss, too.

The labor question.

The convict labor question.

The Agricultural college question.

The Department of Agriculture question.

These and others which might be enumerated every farmer in North Carolina is interested in, but their voice has never been heard in the discussion of them.

Through a State organization, composed of live, progressive, representative farmers, they can voice their sentiments with a potency to command the ear of the legislator and his obedience. It will represent and speak for no clique, clan nor combination of schemers, but for the great body of farmers of North Carolina, for whom it will speak and speak by authority.

We commend the movement and wish it God speed.

## FARMER'S CLUBS.

The farmers of Beaufort county propose to organize during their week of court. They are organizing in the counties of Moore, Johnston and Chatham. We have a letter from Virginia, asking for form of constitution and by-laws, and which assures us that the farmers of the Old Dominion are beginning to arouse themselves to their true interests.

On the 13th inst., a club was formed in Zeb, Rowan county. Officers: E. C. Lentz, President, Ransom Jacobs, Vice-president, C. A. Jacobs, Secretary. Executive committee: W. F. Thompson, H. G. Miller and E. Swink. It is known as the Franklin Township Club, and the next meeting will be held at Zeb on the evening of the 25th at 7 o'clock. Old Rowan, though slow to move will soon be pushing her delinquent neighbors into line.

We learn that a club has been organized at Third Creek on the W. N. C. R. R., and ask some member to be kind enough to give us the address of the officers and other particulars.

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER is anxious to help in every possible way the organization of our farmers and earnestly asks that every officer of a club to whom this paper goes, will see to it that their brother farmers throughout the State are kept informed through its columns of their progress. Write us if only a few brief lines and let us keep the progress of the movement fresh before our readers.

Every club in the State is interested in all the work of all the other clubs and we will take great pleasure in keeping their movements and progress before the public. Write to our paper and tell us what you are doing.

## BRUNSWICK FIRES.

Forest fires that have been burning in Brunswick county for some time past broke out with renewed fury the past week, swept over a great extent of country, and caused no inconsiderable amount of damage to the farmers. Barns and outhouses, and a great deal of fencing have been destroyed as well as much valuable timber. The prolonged drouth has made everything as dry as a tinder and a fire once started spreads with astonishing rapidity. In some places where roots are considerably matted the fire is said to have eaten the ground to a considerable depth. —Wilmington Star.

The dedication of the new Synagogue in this city is to take place the 31st of December, and our Hebrew citizens are making great preparations for celebrating the event in a becoming manner. The handsome edifice is indeed a credit to their small congregation. —Goldboro Messenger.

## THE NATIONAL GRANGE.

The twentieth annual convention of this body met in Philadelphia on the 10th inst., and twenty seven States were represented. Governor elect Luce of Michigan and Master of the Michigan State Grange, Governor Robie of Maine, Lieutenant Governor Jones, of New York, General Lipscomb, Secretary of State of South Carolina, Governor R. E. Pattison, of Pennsylvania, and a large number of other distinguished representatives of the order North Carolina was represented by W. R. Williams, Senator elect from Pitt county and master of the State grange. Reports showed that the general outlook for the Order is very encouraging. The membership in Connecticut doubled during the last year. The secretary says: "We have to-day something in the neighborhood of 1,250,000 members" and he regards the order at present as being stronger numerically and otherwise than in any previous period in its history. For the information of those who think the Grange movement has played out we cite the fact that the grangers of Texas have sent their purchasing agent, Mr. J. M. Calloway to New York where he has established his office, to buy goods for the Grange Co-operative Stores of Texas. The business amounts to more than \$1,000,000 annually. One Grange at Olathe, Johnson county, Kansas, completed last Summer a Grange building that cost \$60,000. In it they have Grange halls, Grange bank, Grange stores &c.

## A TIMBER SPECULATION.

We see mention made in the Charlotte papers that a company of lumbermen of Buffalo, N. Y., are contemplating purchasing, if the outlook suits them, 250,000 acres of timber land in North Carolina, upon which if they effect a purchase, mills will be erected, timber cut down, sawn into lumber and sent to northern markets. The company represents about \$1,000,000 which will be invested in the industry. We have heard of a good many of these land buying syndicates of late years and as a general thing they expect to buy timber land and all at about fifty cents to a dollar an acre, not the value of one well grown tree. With transportation and the facilities for handling the lumber of course there is a mint of money for the purchasers who buy at such a price, but not much for the man that sells. If all the million of dollars here referred to were invested in land it would amount to four dollars an acre, not a very big price for such property as these lumber men are looking for and not much of a loan for the men who sell it.

While we welcome to our State all enterprises which are calculated to promote her prosperity or develop her resources, our enthusiasm does not mount high over the slaughtering of our forests, sold at a beggarly price, to enrich a few speculators who rob our lands of the protecting trees, and put little or no money in pockets of those who part with them for a trifle.

## FARMER'S MEETINGS.

In response to numerous invitations to visit localities in different portions of the State, which hitherto has been impracticable, the editor of the PROGRESSIVE FARMER undertakes a partial compliance, and announces in another column appointments for several counties. Other appointments will be made and announced in due time.

## ATTENTION FARMER'S CLUBS.

Read the letter of Col. Burgwyn in another column. His suggestions are in hearty accord with the views so often expressed in this paper. Let the matter be presented as early as practicable in your club and let us know your decision. We want to hear from every club and all the farmers of the State at once on this important matter. Shall we have a convention?

Our farmers are putting in large crops of small grain. Oats sown in September are coming up finely after lying in the ground for over two months. —Mr. John Q. Griffin, one of the many good farmers of New Salem township, killed a 19 months old pig, of the Poland-China-Berkshire breed, which weighed, net, 466 pounds. —Monroe Enquirer.